

AMENDMENTS IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A washing machine comprising a detachable ~~cartridge-type~~ water treatment unit that applies a voltage between electrodes and thereby elutes therefrom metal ions that exert an antimicrobial effect, wherein, in a water feed route for feeding water to a washing tub, there are provided a water feed port and a water receive port, which are arranged in a top surface of the washing machine, wherein the water treatment unit has, in a portion near one end of a bottom surface of an elongate case, an inflow port to be connected to the water feed port and an outflow port to be connected to the water receive port, and has, in a portion near the other end of the bottom surface of the case, connector portions for energizing the electrodes, any of the inflow port, the outflow port, and the connector portions protruding perpendicularly downward, and wherein the water treatment unit is fitted to the top surface of the washing machine by bayonet coupling.
2. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 1, wherein the water feed port and the water receive port are provided in a back panel on the top surface of the washing machine.
3. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 2, wherein, in the back panel, recesses are formed into which the connector portions are inserted, and wherein the connectors arranged in the recesses are connected to the connector portions.
4. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 3, wherein the connectors are connected to leads that are laid with a predetermined margin.

5. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 1, wherein both the inflow port and the outflow port have circular sectional shapes and are arranged coaxially.
6. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 5, wherein, after fitted to the washing machine by bayonet coupling, the water treatment unit is fixed to the washing machine by being prevented from rotating.
7. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 5, wherein the water treatment unit has the electrodes extending from near the connector portions toward the outflow port, and has, inside the case, a partition wall formed for guiding water that has flowed in through the inflow port toward parts of the electrodes near the connector portions.
8. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 7, wherein the partition wall forms a dead-end passage that is open at one end and closed at the other, wherein the outflow port is located at the closed end of the dead-end passage, wherein the inflow port is open toward outside the partition wall, wherein, inside the dead-end passage, the electrodes are arranged parallel to and at a predetermined interval from each other, and wherein the water that has flowed in through the inflow port is guided along the outside of the partition wall to an entrance of the dead-end passage, then enters the dead-end passage, and then flows along the length of the electrodes toward the outflow port.
- 9.-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 2, wherein both the inflow port and the outflow port have circular sectional shapes and are arranged coaxially.
15. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 3, wherein both the inflow port and the outflow port have circular sectional shapes and are arranged coaxially.
16. (Previously Presented) The washing machine according to claim 4, wherein both the inflow port and the outflow port have circular sectional shapes and are arranged coaxially.
17. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 14, wherein, after fitted to the washing machine by bayonet coupling, the water treatment unit is fixed to the washing machine by being prevented from rotating.
18. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 15, wherein, after fitted to the washing machine by bayonet coupling, the water treatment unit is fixed to the washing machine by being prevented from rotating.
19. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 16, wherein, after fitted to the washing machine by bayonet coupling, the water treatment unit is fixed to the washing machine by being prevented from rotating.
20. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 14, wherein the water treatment unit has the electrodes extending from near the connector portions toward the outflow port, and has, inside the case, a

partition wall formed for guiding water that has flowed in through the inflow port toward parts of the electrodes near the connector portions.

21. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 15, wherein the water treatment unit has the electrodes extending from near the connector portions toward the outflow port, and has, inside the case, a partition wall formed for guiding water that has flowed in through the inflow port toward parts of the electrodes near the connector portions.
22. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 16, wherein the water treatment unit has the electrodes extending from near the connector portions toward the outflow port, and has, inside the case, a partition wall formed for guiding water that has flowed in through the inflow port toward parts of the electrodes near the connector portions.
23. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 20, wherein the partition wall forms a dead-end passage that is open at one end and closed at the other, wherein the outflow port is located at the closed end of the dead-end passage, wherein the inflow port is open toward outside the partition wall, wherein, inside the dead-end passage, the electrodes are arranged parallel to and at a predetermined interval from each other, and wherein the water that has flowed in through the inflow port is guided along the outside of the partition wall to an entrance of the dead-end passage, then enters the dead-end passage, and then flows along the length of the electrodes toward the outflow port.
24. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 21, wherein the partition wall forms a dead-end passage that is open at one end and closed at the other, wherein the outflow port is located at the closed end of the dead-end passage, wherein the inflow port is open toward outside the

partition wall, wherein, inside the dead-end passage, the electrodes are arranged parallel to and at a predetermined interval from each other, and wherein the water that has flowed in through the inflow port is guided along the outside of the partition wall to an entrance of the dead-end passage, then enters the dead-end passage, and then flows along the length of the electrodes toward the outflow port.

25. (Previously Presented) The washing machine of claim 22, wherein the partition wall forms a dead-end passage that is open at one end and closed at the other, wherein the outflow port is located at the closed end of the dead-end passage, wherein the inflow port is open toward outside the partition wall, wherein, inside the dead-end passage, the electrodes are arranged parallel to and at a predetermined interval from each other, and wherein the water that has flowed in through the inflow port is guided along the outside of the partition wall to an entrance of the dead-end passage, then enters the dead-end passage, and then flows along the length of the electrodes toward the outflow port.